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Viewing cable **06MANAGUA556**, NICARAGUA ATLANTIC COAST ELECTIONS: PLC SUPREME IN

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cable's unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#06MANAGUA556**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
06MANAGUA556	2006-03-13 19:14	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Managua

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758456.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758467.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758468.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-30/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2758464.aspx>
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<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4102/estrada-y-la-ldquo-doble-cara-rdquo-ante-ee-uu>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3966/la-ldquo-injerencia-rdquo-de-ee-uu-en-el-2006>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-23/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2758764.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-23/Mundo/NotaPrincipal/Mundo2758753.aspx>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4041/millones-de-dolares-sin-control-y-a-disolucion>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4040/la-ldquo-injerencia-rdquo-de-venezuela-en-2006>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/4047/rodrigo-barreto-enviado-de-ldquo-vacaciones-rdquo>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/NotasSecundarias/Mundo2757239.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/NotaPrincipal/Mundo2746658.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2757244.aspx>
<http://www.nacion.com/2011-05-16/Mundo/Relacionados/Mundo2746673.aspx>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3991/dra-yadira-centeno-desmiente-cable-diplomatico-eeuu>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3968/pellas-pronostico-a-eeuu-victoria-de-ortega-en-2006>
<http://www.confidencial.com.ni/articulo/3967/barreto-era-ldquo-fuente-confiable-rdquo-para-eeuu>

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PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHMU #0556/01 0721914
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 131914Z MAR 06 ZDK
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5555
INFO RUEHZA/WHA CENTRAL AMERICAN COLLECTIVE
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0573
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 000556

SIPDIS

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DEPT FOR WHA/CEN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/10/2016

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KDEM](#) [SNAR](#) [SOCI](#) [NU](#)

SUBJECT: NICARAGUA ATLANTIC COAST ELECTIONS: PLC SUPREME IN RAAS, YATAMA KINGMAKER IN RAAN

REF: A. MANAGUA 0511

[¶](#)B. 05 MANAGUA 2998

Classified By: Ambassador Paul Trivelli for reasons 1.4 (b and d)

[¶](#)11. (C) Summary: Preliminary results for the allocation of seats on the Councils of the South Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAS) and North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN) indicate that the PLC will win enough positions to control the RAAS without having to form an alliance with another party. In the RAAN, however, none of the parties will gain an outright majority. FSLN officials claim they will control the RAAN Council with regional indigenous party Yatama, although the PLC has announced its intention to court Yatama as well. Disturbingly, Vice Foreign Minister Javier Williams Slatte told the DCM that FSLN leader Daniel Ortega made a deal to assist narcotraffickers on the Atlantic Coast if they would help the FSLN win the elections. End Summary.

VOTE ALLOCATION SYSTEM FAVORS FSLN AND YATAMA

[¶](#)12. (U) As reported in ref tel A, the multi-member district proportional representation system allocated a disproportionate number of seats to the FSLN and Yatama than the overall popular vote would indicate. The following chart shows the final vote count and the distribution of Council seats by party.

North Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAN):

PARTY VOTE PERCENTAGE COUNCIL SEATS

PLC	23,783	37.4%	16
FSLN	19,212	30.2%	17
Yatama	12,330	19.2%	12
ALN-PC	3,414	5.4%	0
MRS	1,441	2.3%	0
PAMUC	1,316	2.1%	0
APRE	1,268	2.0%	0
CCN	830	1.3%	0

South Atlantic Autonomous Region (RAAS):

PARTY VOTE PERCENTAGE COUNCIL SEATS

PLC	17,577	47.8%	22
FSLN	7,690	20.9%	11
ALN-PC	5,643	15.4%	6
Yatama	3,561	9.7%	6

MRS	1,373	3.7%	0
CCN	685	1.9%	0
APRE	229	0.6%	0
PAMUC	N/A	N/A	N/A

Although a few "impugnaciones" (official challenges from party poll watchers) remain outstanding, the CSE reported that they would not affect the final results. CSE president Roberto Rivas announced that the Council would proclaim the winning candidates on March 14.

PLC AND FSLN WILL FIGHT FOR YATAMA VOTES IN THE RAAN

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¶3. (U) The PLC won enough seats in the RAAS to control the Regional Council without needing to form an alliance with the ALN-PC. The FSLN proclaimed that they would lead the Council in the RAAN in alliance with Yatama, an indigenous party that promotes autonomy. Diogenes Solorzano, the legal representative for Yatama, confirmed that his party signed an alliance of governability⁸ with the FSLN that promises the governorship to Yatama. PLC representatives indicated, however, that their party would also court Yatama in an attempt to control the RAAN Regional Council by also offering the RAAN governorship and possibly some positions in the RAAS.

ORTEGA MAKES DEAL WITH NARCOTRAFFICKERS

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¶4. (C) On March 10, Vice Foreign Minister and RAAN native Javier Williams Slate informed DCM that FSLN leader Daniel Ortega made a deal with local narcotraffickers, which would allow the traffickers free reign in the region in exchange for political and financial support. According to Williams, a Regional Council member by the name of Dereta brokered an agreement whereby Ortega would use the FSLN's influence in

the court system to free a couple of traffickers from jail. One is Jorge Webster Rojas (arrested on Corn Island last year) and the other is Marvin Funez (arrested in Sandy Bay).

¶5. (C) Williams spent most of election week at his family's house in Puerto Cabezas, where he witnessed the alliance in action. From his house on the beach, he could see the traffickers using their new SUVs and pickup trucks to transport FSLN voters and election workers around town.
(Comment: This is not the first time we have heard reports of FSLN/narco cooperation -- see reftel B. End Comment.)

COMMENT: REST OF COUNTRY WILL "FORGET ATLANTIC COAST ELECTIONS IN TWO MONTHS"

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¶6. (C) Normally a forgotten stepchild, the Atlantic Coast has received intense national attention for the last several weeks as all parties have sought to position themselves for the November national elections. The PLC, FSLN, Yatama, and the ALN-PC have all spun the results positively, leaving only Herty Lewites (MRS candidate) to admit that the outcome was not what he had hoped for. Liberal candidate Jose Antonio Alvarado, although he spent relatively little time and energy on the Coast, appeared to lose some steam as the party he is most closely associated with (APRE) performed very poorly. But do the Atlantic Coast elections really presage November results? Most Nicaraguans agree that the Atlantic Coast -- given its isolation, ideological slant, small population, and ethnic differences -- is unique, and therefore, the choices of its population cannot be accurately extrapolated on a national level. One high-level contact in the Presidency told poloff that, despite the current hype, Nicaraguans will "forget the Atlantic Coast elections in two months."

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